



EMERGENCY PROGRAM NEWS

Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Animal Health Branch

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Emergency Programs

The Animal Health Branch Emergency Programs is dedicated to the prevention, early detection and rapid containment of emergency animal diseases. Outreach to producers and veterinarians to raise awareness is an important aspect of the program. The program recently welcomed Drs. Richard McMillan, who will be providing emergency planning and response support in the Tulare District, and Melanie Swartz, who has joined the Headquarters' team.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

Although the bovine TB control program has made great strides since its beginnings in 1917, recent setbacks highlight the fact that this age old disease still threatens animal health. According to the Office of International Epizootics (OIE), 31 countries, in addition to the United States, reported the presence of bovine TB in 2001.

The US TB control program has been challenged by outbreaks in cattle, farmed cervids (deer and elk), and wildlife. In March 2002, an **Oregon** ranch that raised both elk and cattle was depopulated after one elk died of bovine TB. No evidence of bovine TB was found in any of the remaining 195 elk or 279 cattle tested. The results indicate that the single infected elk was carrying the disease when it was imported into Oregon, despite multiple negative tests. Due to the limited nature of this outbreak, Oregon remains Accredited-Free. In June 2002, **Texas** was downgraded in TB status from Accredited-Free to Modified Accredited-Advanced because of the detection of bovine TB in two cattle herds. The two Texas herds have been depopulated and more than 130 other herds have been tested in the search for the outbreak source and where it may have spread. No other infected herds have been detected, and officials have been unable to pinpoint the source. In June 2002, **Wisconsin** reported that a farmed elk was diagnosed with bovine TB. Officials are investigating the source of infection and conducting area testing in cattle and goats. In addition to these states, **Michigan** continues to combat an outbreak affecting cervids and cattle.

On May 7, 2002, a meat inspector in **California** found bovine TB lesions in a culled dairy cow. The national veterinary laboratory confirmed the infection. Tests of other animals have confirmed the presence of bovine TB in the herd. Animal health officials are tracing animal movements and

testing herds that may have had contact with the index herd to determine the source. Control measures are in place.

California has been involved in bovine TB eradication programs since 1917. The last known case here was in 1991. Due to public health measures put in place in 1917, including slaughter inspection and condemnation of affected animals and pasteurization of dairy products, the risk of people getting bovine TB from animals in the US is extremely remote. People who come into close contact with TB-infected animals are encouraged to take extra precautions, and may wish to contact the California Department of Health Services (DHS) for more information.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

West Nile Virus has been reported in 28 states and the District of Columbia. During 2001, there were 66 human and 733 equine cases reported. In June 2002, Texas discovered its first cases of WNV in birds and horses. This disease has **not** been reported in California; however, we expect that it will enter the state in the future. Our Web site (http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm) provides information on WNV progression across the United States, its effects on birds, animals, and people, and prevention strategies. DHS also has a toll free number to report birds that are suspected to have WNV (1 877 WNV BIRD).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD is a disease of wild and farmed deer and elk, and has been detected in wild deer and elk populations in northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and southwestern Nebraska, and in captive elk herds in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Montana, and South Dakota. During 2002, the first cases of CWD in wild deer were seen east of the Mississippi in **Wisconsin**. In addition, the first cases found west of the continental divide were detected in wild deer in western **Colorado**, and the first case in wild deer in **South Dakota** was detected.

California has not had a case of CWD in captive or wild cervids. The probability of CWD occurring in California is very low. Game farming in California is restricted to a very limited number of highly regulated fallow deer farms. Farming of elk and other deer species is prohibited and the importation of deer and elk from other states is generally not allowed. Tests on hunter-killed deer have been negative.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

The first case of BSE in **Poland** was diagnosed in May 2002. The nine-year-old cow was detected as a result of routine testing of all slaughtered cattle over the age of 30 months. In December 1997, USDA prohibited the importation of most ruminant products from Europe, and in December 2000 prohibited all imports of rendered animal protein products from Europe.

A 10-year-old dairy cow in the Golan Heights of **Israel** was diagnosed with BSE in June 2002 as part of the country's routine testing program. This was the first case of BSE in Israel. In 1988, Israel banned meat-and-bone meal imports from the United Kingdom and from all other countries in 1990. A BSE monitoring and surveillance program was introduced in 1996. USDA already had import restrictions on Israeli products because Israel is not free of foot and mouth disease or classical swine fever. USDA has enhanced restrictions on Israel imports to prevent the introduction of BSE.

Veterinary Medical Action Teams (VMAT)

VMATs are trained teams of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and support personnel who provide veterinary services during times of disaster. These mobile teams deploy within 24 to 48 hours of a request for assistance by state or federal officials. Each team is capable of establishing a veterinary field hospital and can provide veterinary services needed to support a complete disaster relief effort. The California VMAT is led by Dr. John Anderson of Simi Valley. For more information or to volunteer your services, contact Dr. Cindy Lovern at AVMA at (847) 925-8070 x261.

Global Disease Update

The introduction of a foreign animal disease into the US is a constant threat, and continued vigilance by producers and veterinarians is crucial. If you observe unusual conditions, high rates of illness or death, or suspect a foreign animal disease or pest incursion, please notify your veterinarian and state or federal animal health officials immediately. Farm biosecurity plays an important role in safeguarding animals from both domestic and foreign animal diseases. Veterinarians can assist producers in developing a practical biosecurity plan. ***Veterinarians and livestock producers should also remember that serious animal diseases may be transmitted from a foreign country by movement of people, inanimate objects, and food.*** If you intend to visit a foreign country or are hosting foreign visitors on your farm, follow biosecurity precautions.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD): Four countries have reported outbreaks of FMD since February 2002. **Kuwait** has endemic FMD and reported at least six outbreaks last year alone. A **Hong Kong** outbreak resulted in the death or destruction of 12,000 pigs. **Botswana** reported its first FMD case since 1980. **South Korea** reported an FMD outbreak at two locations in May 2002. The sites were rapidly depopulated and disinfected to prevent FMD spread within South Korea or to other countries by traveling World Cup

spectators. Nearly 127,000 pigs were depopulated and the owner of the index farm was arrested for not reporting the disease. South Korea's last FMD outbreak was in April 2000.

Classical Swine Fever (CSF): Between January and June, 2002, **Spain, Germany, Croatia, Korea, France, Luxembourg, Slovenia, and Bulgaria** reported outbreaks of CSF. The source of the outbreaks appears to be contact with wild boars and feeding of non-sterilized kitchen waste.

Newcastle Disease: On May 10, 2002, **Australia** reported an outbreak of virulent Newcastle disease on a poultry layer farm. The flock was immediately quarantined. Current control measures include destruction of sick birds, surveillance, and vaccination. This was the first outbreak of Newcastle disease in Australia since 2000. **Venezuela** reported an outbreak of Newcastle Disease in March and April 2002 in six poultry farms, a zoo barn owl, and fighting cocks. Animal health officials believe the disease was spread to the poultry farms from personnel or suppliers that owned fighting cocks. The outbreak is currently under control.

Avian Influenza H5N1 has once again been diagnosed in **Hong Kong** among chickens. By March, more than 800,000 chickens at more than 20 farms and live bird markets had been destroyed to control the spread of infection. This strain of H5N1, deemed a goose family strain, was not considered a threat to people.

Low pathogenic avian influenza was diagnosed in **Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia** between December 2001 and March 2002. All three states used testing and depopulation as control measures. Pennsylvania and Virginia typed the virus as H7N2. Similar strains are believed to be circulating in East Coast live bird markets. North Carolina and Pennsylvania have eradicated the infection from poultry. As of July 2002, control measures in Virginia have resulted in the depopulation of over 4.7 million birds from 196 farms.

Related Outreach Materials Available:

Bovine Tuberculosis in California
West Nile Virus
Foot and Mouth Disease
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
Biosecurity Tips for Foreign Travelers

For more information, call:

CDFA, Animal Health Branch (AHB)

Headquarters	(916) 654-1447
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 647-4462

Or visit the **AHB Emergency Programs Web site** at:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>

USDA, Veterinary Services (916) 857-6170

Or tollfree (877) 741-3690

Web site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/>